

## STUDY ON CONSTRAINTS FACED BY THE TENANT FARMERS OF *Bt* COTTON AND SUGGESTIONS TO OVERCOME THOSE CONSTRAINTS

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### ABSTRACT

*The study was conducted in Andhra Pradesh state during 2017-18. A total of 120 Bt cotton tenant farmers were selected randomly for the study. Data was collected with interview schedule. Major constraints faced by the Bt cotton tenant farmers were inadequate financial assistance from banks which ranked first, followed by non-availability of crop insurance for tenant farmers that ranked second, high interest rates by private money lenders, ranked third, high rents for the lands leased, ranked fourth and non-availability of loan waiver scheme for tenant farmers, ranked fifth. It also revealed that constraints such as no written lease agreements, non availability of credit in time, input subsidy is not available, high cost of Bt cotton seed. Major suggestions given by the Bt cotton tenant farmers in percentage decreasing order are sufficient financial assistance at low interest rate was ranked first, followed by crop insurance should be available, ranked second, government should monitor the land lease rents, ranked third and provide loan waiver scheme for tenant farmers, ranked fourth. It also revealed that the suggestions such as written agreements should be made, input subsidy need to be provided.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Bt cotton, Tenant Farmers, Constraints & Suggestions*

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### INTRODUCTION

In Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh, mostly *Bt* cotton is grown. So, the present investigation of tenant farmers was done on *Bt* cotton. Tenant farmers are those who cultivate crops by taking land on lease. Tenant farming is an agricultural production system in which land owners contribute their land and often takes care of operating capital and management, while tenant farmers contribute their labour along with at times varying amounts of capital and management. Agreements of lease made between owner and tenant farmers are considered as lease contracts. Depending on the contract, tenants can make payments to the owner either of a fixed portion of the product, cash or in a combination.

Seventy per cent of the land in East Godavari is cultivated by the tenant farming community where each farmer has to shell out Rs 13, 000 towards the lease and Rs 12, 000 for investments to sow in an acre of land. 100 per cent of tenancy is informal. Out of the 1, 500 households taking lands on the lease, not even one lease agreement has been recorded in the revenue records. 55-60 per cent of lands in villages are under lease. As the tenant farmer does not have written agreement, banks are not coming forward to extend loans. So, lack of institutional credit to farmers is the root cause of the crisis of a tenant farmer. Tenant farmers are forced to depend on the private sources to meet the credit requirement (Prasad *et al.*, 2012).

Agricultural tenancy is one of the most important and complex institutions in rural India. Despite legal restrictions, its incidence is high and is increasing over time. The majority of the farmers entered the contract of leasing the land with the landowners verbally only, no written agreements are made and moreover the lease tenure is for short term (Kiranmayi, 2013).

Thus, the study of constraints faced by tenant farmers and suggestions given by tenant farmers in Bt cotton would be of great use to the extension administrators, extension personnel and others who are directly or indirectly involved in the transfer of technology. The study would provide the department officials about the tenant farmers situation.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

Therefore, necessary steps can be planned by the extension personnel to eliminate the constraints faced by tenant farmers which leads to increase in the adoption level of tenant farmers. This would help the department officials to formulate an appropriate awareness and training programs to increase the adoption levels. The investigation was carried out during the year 2017 in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh by adopting ex-post facto research design.

The state of Andhra Pradesh was selected to get well acquainted with the regional language which would help to build a good rapport and also facilitates in-depth study through personal observation. Guntur district was selected, as it has the highest area under cotton cultivation. Out of 57 mandals in Guntur district, three mandals were selected randomly after listing out the total number of mandals, where tenant farmers were more in the cotton growing area. Three mandals, namely Prathipadu, Veldurthi, Karempudi were selected. After listing out the number of villages in each selected mandals, four villages were selected from each selected mandal randomly where tenant farmers were more with the cotton growing area. Ten *Bt* cotton tenant farmers were selected from each village by simple random sampling procedure, thus, making a total of 120 farmers.

The data from the *Bt* cotton tenant farmers were collected with the help of schedules and interviews. The data collected was analysed and suitable interpretations were drawn. The statistical techniques like frequency, percentage were used to analyse the data. Accordingly, the respondents were classified into various groups.

A sample of 120 beneficiaries were selected from 12 selected villages. The data was collected through well structured interview schedule, which was coded, tabulated and analysed in SPSS software and presented in tables to make findings meaningful and easily understandable.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1 revealed that the major constraints faced by the *Bt* cotton tenant farmers were inadequate financial assistance from banks (100.00%) that ranked first, followed by non-availability of crop insurance for tenant farmers (99.17%) which ranked second, high interest rates by private money lenders (90.00%), ranked third, high rents for the lands leased (83.33%), ranked fourth and non-availability of the loan waiver scheme for tenant farmers (80.83%), ranked fifth.

**Table 1: Constraints Faced by the *Bt* Cotton Tenant Farmers**

(n=120)

S. No.	Constraints*	F	%	Rank
1	Inadequate financial assistance from banks	120	100.00	I
2	Non-availability of crop insurance for tenant farmers	119	99.17	II
3	High interest rates by private money lenders	108	90.00	III
4	High rents for the leased lands	100	83.33	IV

5	Non-availability of the loan waiver scheme for tenant farmers	97	80.83	V
6	No written lease agreements	95	79.17	VI
7	Non availability of credit in time	93	77.50	VII
8	Input subsidy is not available	90	75.00	VIII
9	High cost of Bt cotton seed	89	74.17	IX
10	Tenancy time is mostly short term	80	66.67	X
11	High cost of fertilizers, chemicals	79	65.83	XI
12	Complex procedure in getting loans from banks for tenant farmers	78	65.00	XII
13	Lack of remunerative Minimum Support Price (MSP)	75	62.50	XIII
14	Insufficient availability of irrigation facilities	74	61.67	XIV
15	Lack of knowledge on pest and disease management	70	58.33	XV
16	Non availability of timely technical guidance	69	57.50	XVI
17	Scarcity of labour at the time of picking	68	56.67	XVII
18	High charges by commission agents	65	54.17	XVIII
19	Fluctuations in market prices	64	53.33	XIX
20	Non availability of quality inputs	58	48.33	XX

**Note:** \* Responses are Inclusive, F=Frequency, %=Percentage

**Table 2: Suggestions as Perceived by the Bt Cotton Tenant Farmers to Overcome the Constraints Faced by Them**

(n=120)

S. No.	Suggestions*	F	%	Rank
1	Sufficient financial assistance at low interest rate	120	100.00	I
2	Crop insurance should be available	118	98.33	II
3	Government should monitor the land lease rents	101	84.17	III
4	Provide loan waiver scheme for tenant farmers	95	79.17	IV
5	Written agreements should be made	90	75.00	V
6	Input subsidy need to be provided	89	74.17	VI
7	Tenancy tenure should be at least for 3 to 4 years	85	70.83	VII
8	Government should check the high interest rates by private money lenders	84	70.00	VIII
9	Simplification of procedure in getting loans from banks for tenant farmer	76	63.33	IX
10	Providing remunerative Minimum Support Price (MSP)	74	61.67	X
11	Provide irrigation facilities	72	60.00	XI
12	Timely provision of quality inputs in the market at affordable price	70	58.33	XII
13	Providing timely technical guidance	68	56.67	XIII
14	Conduct trainings and demonstrations	67	55.83	XIV
15	Should decrease commission charges taken by commission agents	65	54.17	XV

**Note:** \* Responses are Inclusive, F=Frequency, %=Percentage

Table 1 also revealed that constraints such as no written lease agreements (79.17%), non availability of credit in time (77.50%), input subsidy is not available (75.00%), high cost of Bt cotton seed (74.17%), tenancy time is mostly short term (66.67%), high cost of fertilizers and chemicals (65.83%), complex procedure in getting loans from banks for tenant farmer (65.00%), lack of remunerative minimum support price (62.50%), insufficient availability of irrigation facilities (61.67%), lack of knowledge on pest and disease management (58.33%), non availability of timely technical guidance (57.50%), scarcity of labour at the time of picking (56.67%), high charges by commission agents (54.17%), fluctuations in market prices (53.33%) and non availability of quality inputs (48.33%) were ranked from sixth to twentieth ranks respectively.

### Suggestions to Overcome the Constraints of *Bt* Cotton Tenant Farmers

Based on the constraints encountered, the suggestions were drawn from the *Bt* cotton tenant farmers to overcome them and presented in Table 2. Suggestions were identified and ranked based on the frequency and percentage.

Table 2 revealed that major suggestions given by the *Bt* cotton tenant farmers in percentage decreasing order are sufficient financial assistance at low interest rate (100.00%), ranked first, followed by crop insurance should be available (98.33%), ranked second, government should monitor the land lease rents (84.17%), ranked third and Provide the loan waiver scheme for tenant farmers (79.17%), ranked fourth.

It also revealed that the suggestions such as written agreements should be made (75.00%), input subsidy need to be provided (74.17%), tenancy tenure should be at least for 3 to 4 years (70.83%), government should check the high interest rates by private money lenders (70.00%), simplification of procedure in getting loans from banks for tenant farmer (63.33%), providing remunerative minimum support price (61.67%), provide irrigation facilities (60.00%), timely provision of quality inputs in the market at affordable price (58.33%), providing timely technical guidance (56.67%), conduct trainings and demonstrations (55.83%) and should decrease commission charges taken by commission agents (54.17%) were ranked from fifth to fifteenth respectively.

Though the government has brought tenancy forms, they are not being implemented at reality. The government has already given permission to banks to extend crop loans to the tenant farmers, but the banking sector is not taking steps to implement it.

Thus, it is the responsibility of the government, extension agency and research institutions to provide the above suggested facilities to the *Bt* cotton tenant farmers for their improvement.

### CONCLUSIONS

The data revealed that major constraints faced by the *Bt* cotton tenant farmers were inadequate financial assistance from banks, non-availability of crop insurance for tenant farmers, high interest rates by private money lenders, high rents for the lands leased and non-availability of loan waiver scheme for tenant farmers. It also revealed that constraints such as no written lease agreements, non availability of credit in time, non availability of input subsidy and high cost of *Bt* cotton seed. Major suggestions given by the *Bt* cotton tenant farmers are sufficient financial assistance at low interest rate, crop insurance should be available, government should monitor the land lease rents and provide loan waiver scheme for tenant farmers.

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